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BLACK NOTES

FROM CAROLINA



university of north carolina at chapel hill



## INTRODUCTION

Many high school students who seriously want to come to UNC often ask, "What's Carolina like?" Like most complex questions there is no single or simple answer. This booklet is not intended to provide a mass of information; other publications will do that. What follows is a collection of the impressions some black students have of UNC. Some of the students in their statements seek to advise or exhort, others to point out or extol. All the students are unified in their honest desire to convey to you some sense of what you are about to get yourself into. Ask a black UNC student about Carolina and he'll most likely say:

## “WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?”

UNC is a place of constant change. In 1966 there were fewer than 100 black graduate and undergraduate students attending classes here. By 1970 the total black enrollment was nearly 500. In 1971 over 300 black students were accepted here as freshmen. Mr. H. Bently Renwick, the black, Assistant Director of Admissions, has said that he hopes to see a black graduate and undergraduate enrollment of over 1,000 by 1975. If the present rate of black student selection of Carolina as a place to seek higher education continues, Mr. Renwick will easily meet his goal long before 1975.

UNC has a student population in the neighborhood of 18,000. Often students ask me what kind of college experience can blacks have at such an overwhelmingly white university. The answer is a very simple one. You can have the kind of experience you are willing to work for. UNC is wide open. We have on campus an active Black Student Movement (BSM), which attempts to look out for the interests of all black students. No one forces you to join BSM or become an active member, but it's there ready to help you when you need it all the same. BSM is a recognized campus organization receiving a grant of several thousand dollars from the student legislature.

Students here have a form of limited self government. Any student who is qualified and has the desire to can run for elective office. Blacks have sought and won election to the Student Legislature, Residence College Senates and as Residence College Officers. In 1971, Richard Epps became the first black student to become chairman of the judicial system. Blacks are members of campus honor societies and at least one fraternity.

Black students even work part time for the university as Residence Advisors, Admissions Officers, and as in the case of my job, Student Affairs Assistants. Yes, Carolina is wide open.

Blacks do face problems here, however. UNC has not escaped its share of racism and minority-majority misunderstanding. Isolated complaints of discrimination against black students by professors and university personnel still occasionally come in. Such cases are the exception, however, and not the rule. To be honest, a few cases of discrimination against whites by blacks have been reported too.

To date we have few black professors, the first full-time one having been appointed in 1969 in the Department of English. The university is presently attempting to recruit more.

Dorm hours are progressive, with many women having no closing hours. Dormitories are integrated with random room assignments. The only exception to this is a specific request by two students to room together. The majority of black students live in the high rise dorms on South Campus.

The social life here is comparable to that of any other campus this size. The BSM sponsors parties on South Campus most weekends. There is a good deal of dating and movement between UNC blacks and the other black colleges in the area.

One last word of advice. If you have an overt dislike for white people and can not stand to be around them UNC is not the place for you. Whites are here in droves. Good ones. Bad ones. Tall ones. Short ones. They come in all shapes, sizes and life styles.

James Brown in the winter of 1971 summed up what we as black students need to do at Carolina much better than I ever could. James said:

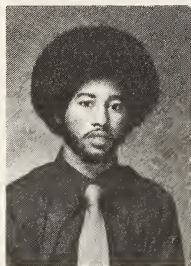
GET ON UP!  
GET INTO IT!  
GET INVOLVED!



Kelly M. Alexander, Jr. . . 22 . . Grad.  
Charlotte, N. C.  
Assistant in the Office of Student Affairs  
1970-1971  
. . . Old Well. . . Society of Janus  
. . . National Board of Directors  
NAACP, 1970-1971

Roger Gause . . Soph . . 19  
Shallotte, N. C.  
Resident Advisor

Brothers and Sisters,



The most difficult period of adjustment for any college student is his Freshman year. Adjusting to college life as a Freshman is enough, but adjusting to predominantly white institution as a black is even more profound.

Coming to Carolina as a black, one must not be lulled into thinking that it is different from the outside world, because it is not. Instead, it is just a microcosm of the community you left. Unlike the community you left, however, as a Black at Carolina you are tolerated and respected a bit more because of the achievements you've earned in getting here. If you are a conscientious student and have the initiative to get involved, you can go a long way at Carolina. It can be done, if the right frame of mind is taken.

I matured a great deal during my Freshman year, as well as the other Freshmen who were here with me. Times were trying for us, but I'm sure that the majority of us wouldn't trade anything for the experience.

If you're looking for a good college education and well-rounded experiences, you came to the right place. The University, without a doubt, is an excellent institution, sound academically and growing more prestigious with the years. Do a good job and you can provide an inlet for many more black students into the University.



Valarie Ramseur . . . Soph . . . 19

Shelby, N. C.

Resident Advisor

Reflecting upon my first year at Carolina, I find much to be said. First of all, as an institution of higher learning UNC offers outstanding, understanding professors, the utmost in modern facilities and living conveniences, and one of the most beautiful campuses in the South. Its liberal rules allow freedom of self expression and the opportunity to know what independence and adulthood really taste like. Financial aid is not hard to come by and if you can get in, you can stay in. All it takes is for the individual to keep in mind his ultimate goal and the money wasted if he spends his time unwisely.



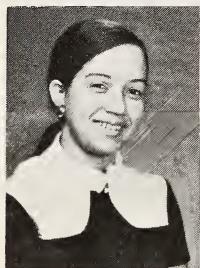
From the black community, one can expect more than adequate social life (especially if you are female since the ratio of men to women is about 4:1), a deep sense of brotherhood and togetherness, and an unbreakable bond of the common need for advancement which each black student shares. A brother or sister who doesn't quite know the game can always find an upperclassman to help.

To break the monotony that sometimes sets in there are concerts by well-known entertainers like the Miracles, Chicago, Richie Havens, Ike and Tina Turner, and there is always some athletic event to attend or party to go to.

It's a good place to come to find oneself; however, if one is shaky and unstable, he can just as easily lose himself in the barrage of diverse personalities that pervade any large college campus such as Carolina. Thus, the greatest learning experience is not that which is gained within the classroom, but outside where one meets these personalities head on.

Evelyn Lewis . . . Sr. . . . 20  
Raleigh, N. C.  
Resident Advisor . . . . Nat'l  
Achievement Scholar . . . Valkyries  
Honor Society

### Welcome Black Students,



As a Junior at UNC, I have seen three years of transition within its black populace. The enrollment of blacks has more than doubled since my matriculation in 1968. This has meant an increased individualism for each student, yet a spirit of ethnic cohesiveness has been maintained.

I see the black students at Carolina as existing in a "community" of their own—not separate but distinct, not forced but voluntary. This community operates within the larger community of the entire UNC student body. This community provides a social outlet for blacks and offers an element of comradeship which is vital to the social happiness of blacks at UNC. It also acts as a forum for black issues through the organization of the Black Student Movement. Involvement inside and outside of this black community is relative to each black's desires. Some students achieve a harmonious balance between the two communities.

Academically, UNC can be very stimulating and challenging. Carolina offers a wide range of experiences to the student who can learn to balance the social and the academic atmosphere. Academic endeavors do not have to be an all consuming goal.

As for prejudice at UNC, I have not found it to be any more pervasive and widespread here than at any other predominantly white institution. Any student who is considering a predominantly white institution must anticipate the possibility of meeting—at some time—the obstacle of prejudice.

I have enjoyed my years at Carolina. This is basically because I was aware of its limitations (i.e., it would not offer the same social life as a predominantly black institution) and accepted them. I say this to urge prospective students to make your own decision! Your choice must be made relative to your own desires, goals, and needs. Advice from others can be helpful, but the ultimate decision must be your own. Investigate the school of your choice and see if it's right for you. Uncertainty about your decision will only foster disappointments.

UNC may be the place for you. I hope it is. Look me up when you get here.



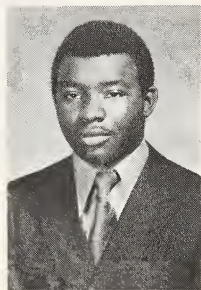
Richard Epps . . . Jr., . . . 20  
Wilmington, N. C.  
Chairman, Honor Court . . . Order of  
the Grail . . . Order of the Old Well  
. . . Richardson Fellow

Freshmen,

Life at Carolina has meant varied things to me as a black undergraduate. Probably the first thing that it means to me is that I am attending the Number One school in the Southeastern United States. You may ask, "So what?," but my reply is that it means a great deal when I go seeking future employment. There are numerous opportunities opening up every day for qualified blacks. I underline qualified because that is what it's going to take—qualifications. As far as I am concerned, qualifications begin with a degree from Carolina.

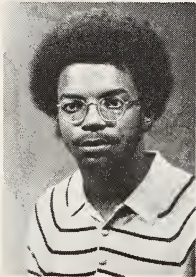
Another thing that makes Carolina appeal to me is its opportunity to pursue all facets of a university education. If you have an interest in student government, radio or television announcing, athletics, acting, debating, or tutoring; these activities are open to any student that wishes to participate in them. My election as Chairman of the Men's Honor Court is a prime example of the opportunities open to a black student at Carolina. Five years ago a black student serving in the capacity of Chairman of any campus organization would have been almost an impossibility, but today things are changing fast. In the next couple of years I foresee other black students in key positions in the student courts, the student legislature, committee chairmanships, as well as the presidency of the student body.

Before things like these will materialize, we need more conscientious black students like you who will make thier presence known in the form of scholastic achievement, campus participation, and most of all a dedication to succeed. I know that making the decision to apply to Carolina is a big one, because other black students here and I had to make the same decision. The only consolation that I can give to you is that I do not regret my decision to come. It is my personal belief that you will not regret coming either. Power and Peace.



Allen Mask . . . Soph . . . 19  
Hamlet, N. C.  
Central Committee, BSM . . .  
Jefferson Standard Scholarship  
in Broadcasting. . .

Dear Black Freshmen:



Congratulations on your successful completion of high school and the fine record you bring to the University. Your accomplishments speak loudly in your behalf and I trust you'll use them as benchmarks from which to work in the future.

Carolina ranks high nationally in many schools and departments and, contrary to much hearsay, *no* course or major is a complete push-over. These departments intend to maintain their national status—which results in pressure on you. Become more than just another face and get to know your professors; your interest might mean the difference between passing and failing.

Independence is all yours as a student at the University and it can work to your advantage or disadvantage. You will experience freedoms never dreamed of in high schools and at many colleges. You set the pace and pattern for your own life; no one pressures you to attend classes, study, etc. You are the governor of your academic and social lives.

Chapel Hill is an area where you can enjoy campus life while maintaining your Blackness. The Black Student Movement acts as a focal point for Black activities and I urge you all to become a working part of the organization. Don't make the mistake of thinking Chapel Hill is a political or social haven for Blacks. Racial prejudice and bigotry are as American as July 4th, but you will find the atmosphere liberal and the people generally receptive to your ideas.

I urge all Black Freshmen to become involved in some phase of campus activities. Take advantage of the opportunities offered you as a student by providing a Black voice in decision-making organizations. I particularly advise that you get in on the BSM Tutorial Program; you will find it can play an instrumental part in improving your quality point average.

Again, it's great having you here and I hope Carolina provides the experiences for which you've been searching. Looking forward to your presence for at least four years,

Good Things,

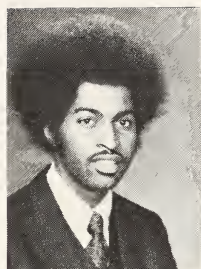
Allen Mask, Class of '74

Thomas Jones . . . Sr. . . . 20

New Bern, N. C.

Member of Marching Band

After being at the University of North Carolina for three years and three summers, I have become completely aware of the avenues necessary to make my stay here fruitful as well as enjoyable. Relaying the tips I have learned on "Carolina Life" is a heartfelt privilege.



As a Freshman, my major objective was to do well academically. I proceeded, therefore, to uncover the means of making my academic life easier. This included methods in taking tests, what professors not to get for particular courses, a self-disciplined study schedule, and an outlet for getting away from the "books" sometimes. My first semester was a real test run. I got some of the worst professors, and the tests were terrible. I learned quickly that there were upperclassmen in my department (Chemistry) who had gone through the same courses I was taking. Talking to these people really saved me. They let me know about the professors who tended to show racial prejudices in their classes, and they advised me against getting courses under these professors. This also went for professors who were just plain difficult on any scale of reference. They also provided me with old exams and instructed me to various quiz files that held exams pertinent to the courses I was taking. This led to large scale improvement the next semester. Even though studying was my major objective, I needed an outlet to get away from it all. With a number of extra-curricular activities to choose from, I chose the Marching Band as my prime outlet. After three years in the band I must say it gave me a lift when I was down. I even made the cheerleading squad my sophomore year.

As time went on my presence at Carolina as a member of a minority race set me to thinking about my blackness. The Black Student Movement offered still another outlet in this field. It proved to be quite worthwhile in conditioning a number of my thoughts.

I caution all of you, however, that self-discipline is a major key to success while here at Carolina. It's a big place. There are many facets to plug yourself into. Remember, however, that adjustment is a problem only if you make it one. At any rate, be yourself and don't let a new atmosphere of people and situations frighten you out of your basic concepts of life.

## YOU AT CAROLINA

From the preceding remarks, it is easy to see that the opinions and attitudes of black students at Carolina are very diversified.

Carolina offers a vast number of opportunities for its students, and you as a black student can have your fair share of the pie through your abilities and self-assertion. Your accomplishments in high school paved the way for your entry into Carolina. I only wish and hope that you, as an individual, will continue to assert yourself to the utmost of your abilities on a campus that caters to successful students.

There is a tremendous need for blacks at Carolina to get themselves together in an attempt to mold black students into the harmonious community that we need in hopes of achieving the goals that are pertinent to the success of black students on this campus. I encourage every incoming freshman to support the Black Student Movement wholeheartedly with the intentions of achieving the black unity that we so desperately need. BSM offers the student an outlet for expression of black ideals and determination. Through your participation, BSM can become a highly effective organization.

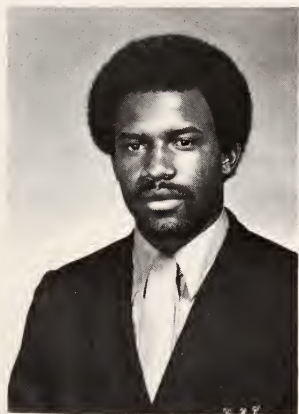
Involvement in campus activities can play a very significant role in getting ourselves together. The number of organizations that are available to meet the demands of just what you want is as diversified as the opinions and attitudes of the individuals here. I would like to encourage the participation of all black students in campus affairs.

I would be the first to admit that Carolina is not an escape from the realities of society. The same thing that occurs in your community, occurs here. You will experience prejudiced instructors, classmates and advisors, but it is my belief that those who readily accept you as you are far out-number those who reject you.

You will present me with an arduous task throughout this year. I readily accept the challenge of working with and for you in hopes that I can make life better and happier for you at Carolina. There is a lot to be changed and change can only come through your co-operation and concern. Anyone can sit back and constantly complain, but it takes a strong and durable person to work to bring change. I only hope that you are the strong and durable people that we so drastically need.

I am looking forward to knowing each and everyone of you personally.

LOVE, PEACE AND HAPPINESS.



Harry L. Jones . . . 21 . . . Sr.  
Southern Pines, N. C.  
Assistant in the Office of  
Student Affairs, 1971-1972 . . .  
. . . Board of Directors of  
North Carolina Conference for  
Social Services, 1970-1973 . . . .  
. . . . Order of the Grail







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